

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A mattress assembly constructed substantially of plastic material, comprising:

a mattress foundation comprising:

a generally planar and essentially rigid top surface having an upper side and a lower side; and

at least one essentially rigid sidewall, having a lower edge, the sidewall extending substantially along a perimeter of the lower side of the top surface, depending downward from the top surface, defining a cavity, wherein an outer surface of the sidewall includes a pattern ~~integrally~~ unitarily formed with the sidewall; and

a frame assembly comprising a plurality of ground support members supporting the foundation, depending downward from the lower edge of the at least one sidewall, holding the foundation above ground, and maintaining the top surface in a substantially horizontal orientation.

Claim 2 (Previously presented): The assembly of claim 1, wherein the pattern is substantially planar and has a visual three-dimensional appearance.

Claim 3 (Original): The assembly of claim 1, wherein the pattern is substantially three-dimensional.

Claim 4 (Original): The assembly of claim 1, including a headboard tangentially extending vertically along one end of the foundation.

Claim 5 (Original): The assembly of claim 4, wherein the headboard is made of substantially plastic material.

Claim 6 (Previously presented): The assembly of claim 5, wherein an outer surface of the headboard includes a pattern integrally formed with the headboard.

Claim 7 (Original): The assembly of claim 1, wherein a pattern is formed on at least a portion of the upper side of the top surface.

Claim 8 (Original): The assembly of claim 1, including at least one ground support member.

Claim 9 (Original): The assembly of claim 8, wherein the ground support is made of substantially plastic material.

Claim 10 (Previously presented): The assembly of claim 9, wherein an outer surface of the ground support includes a pattern integrally formed with the ground support.

Claim 11 (Currently amended): A mattress foundation constructed substantially of plastic material, comprising:

a generally planar and essentially rigid top surface having an upper side and a lower side; and

at least one essentially rigid sidewall extending substantially along a perimeter of the lower side of the top surface and having an outer surface including a pattern integrally unitarily formed with the sidewall, said pattern causing the outer surface to have the appearance of a three-dimensional relief surface.

Claim 12 (Previously presented): The mattress foundation of claim 11, wherein the pattern is substantially planar and simulates the three-dimensional appearance.

Claim 13 (Previously presented): The mattress foundation of claim 11, wherein the pattern is substantially three-dimensional.

Claim 14 (Currently amended): A method of manufacturing a mattress foundation, comprising:

forming a generally planar and essentially rigid top surface having an upper side and a lower side;

disposing along a perimeter of the lower side of the top surface at least one essentially rigid sidewall; and

integrally unitarily forming a pattern on an outer surface of the sidewall, said pattern causing the outer surface to have the appearance of a three-dimensional relief surface.

Claim 15 (Previously presented): The method of claim 14, wherein disposing the rigid sidewall along the perimeter includes molding the top surface and the rigid sidewall with the pattern as a unitary piece.

Claim 16 (Previously presented): The method of claim 15, wherein molding includes at least one of injection-molding, gas-assisted injection molding, vacuum molding, low-pressure molding, and blow-molding.

Claim 17 (Previously presented): The method of claim 14, wherein integrally forming the pattern includes forming a substantially planar pattern that has a visual three-dimensional appearance.

Claim 18 (Previously presented): The method of claim 14, wherein integrally forming the pattern includes forming a substantially three-dimensional pattern.

Claim 19 (Previously presented): The method of claim 14, further comprising

providing a frame assembly depending downward from a lower edge of the at least one sidewall, said frame assembly holding the mattress foundation above ground, and maintaining the top surface in a substantially horizontal orientation.

Claim 20 (Previously presented): The method of claim 19, wherein providing the frame assembly includes integrally forming the frame assembly with the mattress foundation.

Claim 21 (New): The assembly of claim 1, wherein unitarily includes non-attachably.

Claim 22 (New): The assembly of claim 1, wherein unitarily formed includes formed using at least one of molding, etching, embossing, engraving, carving, stamping, silhouetting and sculpting.

Claim 23 (New): The method of claim 11, wherein unitarily includes non-attachably.

Claim 24 (New): The method of claim 11, wherein unitarily formed includes formed using at least one of molding, etching, embossing, engraving, carving, stamping, silhouetting and sculpting.

Claim 25 (New): The method of claim 14, wherein unitarily includes non-attachably.

Claim 26 (New): The method of claim 14, wherein unitarily forming includes forming using at least one of molding, etching, embossing, engraving, carving, stamping, silhouetting and sculpting.